

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

OMB-01 CIEP-01 INT-05 STR-04 GSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W
----- 015498

P R 121230Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1336

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0883

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, VE, GY

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN FONMIN ESCOVAR'S VISIT PAVES WAY FOR BURNHAM-
PEREZ MEETING IN VENEZUELA

REF: GEORGETOWN 727

1. I SPOKE WITH FONMIN RAMPHAL AT MINISTRY MORNING JUNE 11
IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE RETURNED FROM LENGTHY MEETING BETWEEN PM
BURNHAM AND VENEZUELAN FONMIN ESCOVAR. HE SAID THAT MEETING
SEEMED TO HAVE REMOVED ANY REMAINING OBSTACLE OF VISIT BY BURNHAM
TO VENEZUELA (REFTEL). RAMPHAL SAID DATE STILL NOT FIRM.BUT
WOULD PROBABLY BE IN LATTER PART OF JULY. BURNHAM REMAINS UNWILLING
MEET PEREZ IN CARACAS AND MEETING WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE ON
MARGARITA ISLAND.

2. RAMPHAL INDICATED ECONOOIC ASSISTANCE WAS DISCUSSED
MORE IN TERMS OF PRINCIPLE AND THEORETICAL EXAMPLES RATHER
THAN SPECIFICS. ESCOVAR WAS MEETING WHILE I TALKED WITH RAMPHAL
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WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HOYTE AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS

TO FOCUS ON SPECIFICS. BOTH SIDES INTEND TO HAVE SPECIFIC PROJECTS READY FOR PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WHEN BURNHAM AND PEREZ MEET, ACCORDING TO RAMPHAL.

3. ON BAUXITE, RAMPHAL SAID AGREEMENT HAS BEEN MADE IN PRINCIPLE FOR GUYANA TO SUPPLY BAUXITE TO VENEZUELAN ALUMINA FACILITIES. HE SAID NO RPT NO AGREEMENT FOR COLLABORATION ON ALUMINUM SMELTER IN EITHER GUYANA OR VENEZUELA IS PRESENTLY PLANNED. HE INDICATED BOTH ESCOVAR AND GOG ARE ANXIOUS NOT TO FURTHER OFFEND TRINIDAD P M WILLIAMS BY MAKING SMELTER AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO UNDERCUT PLAN FOR TRINIDAD-BASED SMELTER AND WHICH WOULD EXACERBATE WILLIAMS'S SUSPICION OF AND HOSTILITY TO VENEZUELA.

4. RAMPHAL DOES NOT RPT NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SPECIFIC RECOGNITION BY VENEZUELA OF GUYANA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER ESSIQUIBO TERRITORY TO RESULT FROM EITHER VISIT OF ESCOVAR OR PROPOSED VISIT BY BURNHAM. HE CITED THIS AFTERNOON'S VISIT BY ESCOVAR TO KAITEUR FALLS IN THE DISPUTED TERRITORY, HOWEVER, AS AN INDICATION OF THE SLOW STEPS WHICH VENEZUELA IS WILLING AND ABLE TO TAKE TOWARD ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXISTING SITUATION. PREVIOUSLY, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTION BY GOV TO AVOID VISITING AREA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, RAMPHAL SAID THAT POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN ASSISTANCE TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN DISPUTE AREA WOULD ALSO AID IMPLICIT RECOGNITION, BUT THAT SUCH PROJECTS THERE HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON.

5. REGARDING CUBAN EMBASSY IN CARACAS, RAMPHAL NOTED THAT ESCOVAR TOLD BURNHAM ITS ESTABLISHMENT WAS QUOTE IMMINENT UNQUOTE. MATTHEWS

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